



# How Family Friendly is Your School?

***Strong partnerships are the key to our children's success.***

# Reflection

What was parent involvement like when you were growing up?

Take a minute to reflect.

Please share with a partner.







# Family Engagement Is...

*The National Family, School, and Community Engagement Working Group*

- A shared responsibility
- Continuous
- Happens wherever children learn
- Critical for student success
- Essential for school improvement
- Advocating for educational opportunity and quality

# When parents and school staff work together to support learning, students:

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Enroll in higher level programs
- Are promoted and earn credits
- Adapt well to school and attend regularly
- Have better social skills and behavior
- Graduate and go on to higher education



**A New Wave Of Evidence:** The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement



# Striving to Achieve: Helping Native American Students Succeed

“The factor **most correlated with higher achievement** was the school’s effort to **engage parents, families and communities in the school**, outweighing even school leadership, teacher quality and curriculum.”



# MetLife Survey of the American Teacher

Surveys of new teachers find that “the biggest challenge they face as a teacher is communicating with and involving parents,”

and that they felt “least prepared to engage families in supporting their children’s education.”

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. *MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: Transitions and the Role of Supportive Relationships, 2004-2005. A Survey of Teachers, Principals and Students.*



# **SURVEYS OF STUDENTS REFLECT THEIR ENGAGEMENT IN THEIR EDUCATION**

92% My parents care about my education.

43% Students have a voice in decision making at school.

42% I know the goals my school is working on this year.

68% School is a welcoming and friendly place.

50% Teachers let my parents know what I do well.

50% Teachers care if I am absent from school.

*My Voice* Student Report, Montana All Schools, 2011-2012



# **How is Your Partnership with Parents?**

**Answer the five questions on your own.**

**Be sure your answers reflect your school as a whole, not your efforts or individual teachers.**

**Turn over to the back of the page and score.**

**How is your school doing with engaging families?**





# Four Versions of Family-School Partnerships

A- Fortress School

B- Come-if-We-Call School

C- Open-Door School

D- Partnership School

Henderson, Mapp, Johnson & Davies, Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships, 2007



# The Joining Process

*Karen Mapp*

Welcome

Honor

Connect

Don't leave it to random acts of parent involvement,  
plan family engagement consciously and  
conscientiously!!!



# Family Friendly Walkthroughs

This is a fantastic way to start a conversation about the “friendliness” of your school.

The areas evaluated by the walkthrough team are:

- physical environment of the school,
- school-wide policies & practices, and
- communication between school & home.

# Resources Referenced in this Presentation

- Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) <http://www.hfrp.org/>
- Department of Education Webinar Series <http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/projects/achieving-excellence-and-innovation-in-family-school-and-community-engagement-webinar-series>
- Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships, Henderson, Mapp, Johnson & Davies,
- “Parent Friendly Schools- Starting the Conversation; 5 Tools for Schools,” Iowa Parent Information and Resource Center <http://www.iowaparents.org/files/toolkit/2-3.pdf>